



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 8, 2008

Governor sends letter to President

Late this evening, Governor Daniels sent a letter to President Bush to request that an expedited major disaster be declared for 44 counties in Indiana. The expedited procedure allows a state to request a decision by the President without first completing all of the preliminary damage assessment.

The governor spoke to FEMA Director David Paulison tonight. Paulison said that the request would be processed immediately and signed as quickly as possible. Federal assistance includes individual assistance, public assistance and Small Business Administration disaster loans.

A copy of the governor's letter is attached. It outlines the current situation in Indiana, the state and local resources that have been and will be employed to assist with conditions of the disaster, and requests direct federal assistance to save lives and protect property, including the need for some commodities such as potable water, medical supplies and meals for evacuated people.

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Media contact: Jane Jankowski, 317/232-1622, jjankowski@gov.in.gov



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President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20202

Through: Mr. Edward G. Buikema
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region V
536 S. Clark St, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare an expedited major disaster for the State of Indiana as a result of severe storms, tornados, torrential rainfall, and flash flooding that began on May 30, 2008 and continuing.

The counties affected are: Adams, Bartholomew, Benton, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Elkhart, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lagrange, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Miami, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Union, Wabash, Warrick, Wayne, White, Vermillion and Vigo.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on May 30, 2008 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. Under Indiana Code 10-14-3-12, I declared a State of Disaster Emergency on June 6, 2008 for the counties initially impacted by high winds, tornados and flash flooding. On June 7, 2008, I declared a State of Disaster Emergency for additional counties impacted by high winds, severe storms and flash flooding. Today, I issued a third Declaration of State Disaster Emergency for additional counties which were primarily impacted by torrential rainfall, flash flooding and river flooding. The Executive Orders are attached.

The State of Indiana has a current Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan that was updated and approved on April 23, 2008.

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) was completed for Marion and Hancock counties on June 6, 2008. The results of JPDA yielded 169 destroyed, 234 major, 169 minor and 448 affected homes. The damaged area was primarily low-income housing. State Preliminary Damage Assessments are underway to evaluate the declared and affected counties. Additional JPDAs will be requested as the state completes its assessments.

Flash flooding throughout the affected areas of the state has made travel impossible. Bridges, culverts and roadways have been reported washed out. Therefore, state assessments are being impeded.

Currently the American Red Cross is operating 14 shelters in 11 counties. Water rescues continue to be conducted by Department of Natural Resources and local fire and rescue departments in the affected counties.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting: Individual Assistance including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Unemployment Assistance and Crisis Counseling; Public Assistance and Small Business Administration disaster loans for the following counties:

Adams, Bartholomew, Benton, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Elkhart, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lagrange, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Miami, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Union, Wabash, Warrick, Wayne, White, Vermillion and Vigo.

Although deliberate JPDAs have not, as yet, been done for all of these counties, the significant damages suffered in Morgan County are representative the flooding that is impacting other declared counties.

Morgan County has been severely affected by flooding. Initial estimates indicate the City of Martinsville is believed to have had nearly 400 homes that sustained substantial flooding. In parts of the City, flood waters exceeded six feet. The Town of Paragon, while smaller in population, was likewise impacted.

I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation statewide.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

1. Dept. of Corrections: Providing assistance with sand bagging and debris removal.

2. Dept. of Environmental Management: Representatives are in the field surveying damage.
3. Dept. of Natural Resources: Providing boats and Conservation Officers for rescues and evacuations, dam inspections.
4. Local fire and rescue units provided water rescues.
5. Dept. of Health: Providing technical assistance with mass health care and transportation.
6. Dept. of Transportation: Providing road closures, debris removal, traffic control, inspections of roads, and delivery of sandbags.
7. IN Department of Environmental Management: Providing technical assistance in matters concerning air and water quality.
8. National Guard: Multiple tasks including: helicopter support, SAR, sandbagging, generator support, security, water delivery, and debris removal.
9. State Police: Providing extra security in evacuated areas, and assisting with rescues and evacuations.
10. Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives: Providing volunteer assistance and coordination.
11. Civil Air Patrol: Providing aerial reconnaissance of the affected areas.
12. Voluntary Agencies: Providing immediate needs for victims in the form of shelter and feeding operations.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

I request Direct Federal Assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property. Direct Federal Assistance is anticipated to address commodity, health care and debris removal needs.

a. The State of Indiana may be unable to provide certain commodities and services which are requested by the impacted counties and communities. These include potable water, bottled water, medical supplies and portable meals for evacuated persons

and response personnel. We may be unable to obtain these items in the quantities necessary and within the timeframe they will be required.

b. The Columbus Regional Hospital has been evacuated as a result of this flooding disaster. According to the Indiana State Department of Health, the basement has been completely flooded affecting such operations as the laboratory, morgue, pharmacy, kitchen and patient records storage (thus making the transfer of patient information to other health care facilities impossible). Currently the basement still contains approximately 6 feet of water. At least two feet of water has destroyed the first floor operations of the hospital including the radiology department as well as general administrative offices. The emergency room still has doctors present however they are treating patients out of the back of an ambulance and are referring severe cases to other locations. There are three urgent care centers continuing to operate out of the Columbus area, but some of these are reported to be without electrical power. The Columbus area only has one other ambulatory surgery center that is functional and it only has two operating rooms available. Other area health care facilities that have received patients are concerned due to the fact that patient records for patients transferred from the Columbus Regional Hospital have been destroyed by flood waters. The military is currently preventing persons from entering the Columbus Hospital facility. Additionally, there is concern that those hospitals downstream from Columbus, who accepted evacuated Columbus patients and who now also bear day to day regional responsibilities on Columbus' behalf, may themselves possibly become flooding victims as rivers crest.

It may be necessary for FEMA to provide Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, and/or their elements, to respond to the situation and provide needed assistance to cope with the emergency conditions dependent upon further operational assessments. It is anticipated that the Columbus Regional Hospital may be out of service for three to five months.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Indiana agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways
necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work,
and
shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such
work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such
work
in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and

4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Joseph E. Wainscott, Jr. as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessment and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "ME Daniels, Jr." in a cursive style.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana

Enclosure: